

**From:** jonbeall1@onr.com [mailto:jonbeall1@onr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2008 11:48 AM  
**To:** Gentry, Shirley (Brown - CCO)  
**Subject:** addressing - Belterra Settlement, Case # 0014293001, Agenda Items 68 & 73

Date/Time Submitted Tuesday, 6/17/08, 11:48 hours

**From:** Mayor Wynn and Council Members

**E-mail address:** jonbeall1@onr.com

**Subject:** Belterra Settlement, Case # 0014293001, Agenda Items 68 & 73

**Comments:**

This Wednesday, you will consider a settlement with Belterra to allow the first ever direct discharge of treated effluent into the Baton Springs Watershed. They should and can meet the same zero discharge requirements of everyone else in the Barton Springs Zone.

We suggest the best course of action is to reject this settlement for the following reasons:

1. The complexity and sophistication of an unusual treatment plant which meets a 5-5-2-1 standard causes us concern for its reliability, maintenance and performance day in and out for years.
2. A more reliable alternative exists. Belterra should buy additional land for irrigation of treated effluent, the method used by everyone else in the Barton Springs Zone. Not only does this result in zero discharge of pollutants, but a beautiful open space amenity would result for their residents.
3. Buying additional land for irrigation should provide a less expensive alternative to constructing a very sophisticated package treatment plant. Using the estimated price of \$15,000 per acre, an additional 50 acres for irrigation would cost Belterra only \$750,000. We do not know the cost to meet the abnormal treatment standards called for in the settlement, but it could easily and significantly exceed this amount.
4. Shouldn't it be possible in this area and time of uncertain water supplies to reuse that waste water locally for landscape irrigation?
5. Belterra seems to want a regional treatment facility with capacity to handle wastewater from nearby developments. This would greatly increase the intensity of new development.
6. All downstream entities have opposed this method of disposal: Dripping Springs, BSEACD, LCRA, several neighborhood associations, etc.

In short, we do not think enough work has gone into the settlement compromise. Belterra will make lots of money unless market forces create a real estate bust in this area. In the

mean time, they should not be allowed to discharge their treated effluent onto their downstream neighbors Thanks for your hard work for our community Jon Beall 632-1760